

# Elk Point REVIEW

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Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Vol. 31 No. 11 • \$1 (GST incl.)

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## Elk Point initiates benevolent society

By VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

The caring community of Elk Point came together Thursday night to take the first steps toward development of a benevolent society that would help those who have exhausted other sources of assistance.

Community members approached FCSS director Deanna Easthope last fall to seek help for those experiencing personal tragedy, but without family or friends to help them out of the situation. The formation of a benevolent society and the establishment of a food bank were suggested, and "I researched both," Easthope said as she opened the meeting at the Seniors' Recreation Centre. "Then I met with the representatives of schools and churches, who agreed any such society must be accountable and sustainable."

Establishing a food bank, she determined, "is not easy, but is possible," and would help those raising children on a fixed income or without full-time jobs and finding it difficult to make ends meet. **Santas Anonymous** helped 38 families this Christmas, "but what about the rest of the year?" Organized food banks operate in Bonnyville and St. Paul, but can be difficult to access for someone without a vehicle or gas money, she noted. Local churches do keep a small amount of non-perishable food on hand to assist those in need. Other assistance available locally includes quilts for fire victims and others who have lost their homes, provided by Further Ed's daytime quilters, clothing from the United Church rummage store, and schools that assist students when and how they can.

Easthope contacted several communities that have some form of benevolent fund, and handed out information on Stettler's emergency relief fund, which they in turn had patterned on information received from Grande Prairie.

(Continued on Page 2)



Vicki Brooker photo

### Hockey comes down to a fine science

Two young hockey fans visiting last Tuesday's Science Fair at Elk Point Elementary School find out the science behind the slap shot at this award winning display by Grade 3 student and minor hockey player Hayden Ludlage, one of 24 projects displayed to families, fellow students and the community. More photos, Page 7.

## 'Bright ideas' needed for Canada Day 2011

By VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

It's more than three months until Canada Day, but Elk Point's Canada Day Committee is already hard at work planning the day-long celebration of national pride.

The committee held their first meeting of the year on Feb. 24, but some work had already been undertaken by then, with secretary-treasurer Deanna Easthope reporting that the 2011 grant application for federal funding had been submitted and the fireworks booked on Jan. 10.

Committee chair Bernice Capjack welcomed new member Ron Fraess to the group, and returning representatives of community groups back to the table for another year, as they prepared to go down the list of events for July 1.

The day will once again start off with the traditional pancake breakfast and parade. Easthope was delegated to con-

tact the pipe band and ask them to take part, and to contact Canadian Forces to see if a jet flyover is a possibility for this year's celebration.

Laverne Wilson requested, "more freezies, and get the water spray park built!" when he was asked about the children's activities. He is planning more variations to add to the activities that proved very popular last year. Wilson and Dave Pilisko also organize the ever-popular Farm Survival Challenge, and agreed that it would be happening again this year, but offered no details at this point.

Last year for the first time, Canada Day featured two outdoor stage shows as part of the afternoon events, with teen-oriented music on the downtown stage used earlier for breakfast entertainment, and multicultural dancers and country music on the Alberta Centennial Stage. Committee members were delegated to contact entertainers and dance

groups to see if they are available to perform.

Easthope will contact the organizers of the strength competition and the Canada Day Idol to determine if these events will be back on the agenda. She will also confirm the sound system booking for the afternoon stage show and Canada Day Idol.

Last year's food vendors will also be contacted, with only the Christian Community Church confirming that the pie booth will be back in 2011, and is planning to bring along more tables.

Committee members didn't bring forth many new ideas, but did agree with Capjack that they could use some "new people with bright ideas... especially for the children."

All those with bright ideas or willing hands are invited to attend the next meeting on March 31 at 7 p.m. the Elk Point Visitor Information EcoCentre.

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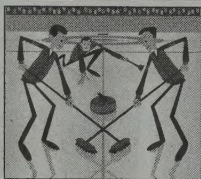


## Cash calendar winners

The March Elk Point Minor Hockey cash calendar winners are: Reg Smith, Dwayne Vogel, Jerry and Mildred Penner (Three Hills), Steve Drobot (St. Paul), Sheana Pankiw, Mitch Brekko (Kitscoty), Rachel Vallee (Mallaig), Tina Campbell, Glen Ockermann Tina Campbell, Joe Serniak, Janice Braden (Lethbridge), Archie Trach (Derwent) and Victor John, each winning \$20, and Asteria Cueva, the lucky \$100 winner.

Congratulations, everyone.

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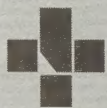
Set for Saturday, May 28, 2011

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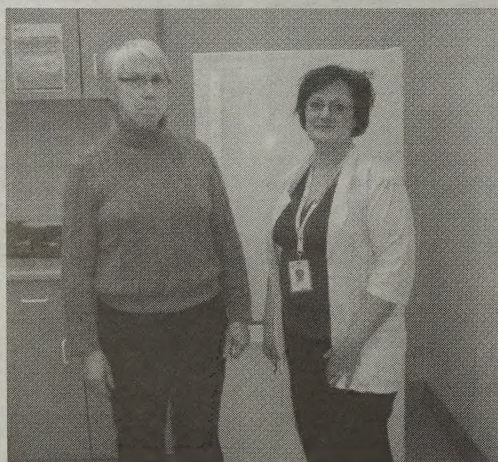
Tuesday, March 22, 2011

7:00 p.m. at the  
Elk Point Municipal Library



**Alberta Health  
Services**

**Thank You**



Alberta Health Services nursing staff at the Elk Point Long Term Care Unit are grateful for the fridge that was purchased from the donation dollars received from the community.

www.albertahealthservices.ca

## Attempted quad theft leads to assault investigation

By Cst. John Spaans

Elk Point RCMP

On Feb. 28 at 6 p.m., a complaint was received from an individual in Fishing Lake seeking member assistance.

The complainant advised that a male had come into his house, possibly under the influence of drugs, and began causing a scene. While this was taking place, a second male was outside attempting to hot-wire a quad. When the homeowners realized what was happening, the suspect outside of the residence allegedly assaulted an occupant of the house.

Both of the suspects have been identified and investigation continues.

Liquor Act

At 11:30 p.m. on Feb. 25, RCMP were dispatched to Slinger's Pub after receiving a complaint that there were three males refusing to leave the bar. The individuals had been barred from the premises and were not following staff

directions to leave.

RCMP attended the scene and identified the three individuals. They were escorted from the property and issued violation tickets under the Gaming and Liquor Act for failing to leave licensed premises.

On Feb. 27 at 1:30 a.m., RCMP were dispatched to a fight in progress in the Tags parking lot. When members arrived on scene, the fight was over but a pickup truck with five occupants was located.

The occupants of the truck, four youths and one adult, denied being involved in a fight and claimed they were at Tags to buy cigarettes. When shown that their alibi did not make sense, they did not have any other excuse for being there.

The four youths were cooperated but the adult male was very intoxicated and agitated. The youths were caring for the adult and all parties were sent on their way.

## Missing person update

On March 9, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., Elk Point RCMP located a deceased individual on the Frog Lake First Nations. The remains have been identified as Daniel Moocheweines of Frog Lake. Moocheweines was reported missing on February 27 when he did not return home from a friend's house. The cause of death has yet to be determined but foul play is not suspected.

## Elk Point initiates benevolent society

(Continued from Front Page)

A shortage of food was seen as "the main thing" seen by Pastor Jim MacLellan of Elk Point Baptist Church. Meeting rent and utility costs are the next most frequent problems.

A food bank would require both a location and someone to operate it. Now that FCSS has relocated, they do not have space for the Community Lions to store their Santas Anonymous donations, and nor would there be space for food storage. FCSS is also unable to fund a food bank, "but could help make it happen," Easthope noted, adding that the FCSS board had given her the go-ahead to do the research. "And I could probably (oversee the benevolent society) out of the office if a board was established."

"I envision setting up a non-profit entity where people could apply for assistance," Pastor MacLellan said. "It would give everyone the ability to contribute."

"What we really need is money and people to distribute it," Town Coun. Ron Fraess said. "The churches give out food."

Easthope did not feel that the formation of a benevolent society would affect the holding of big fundraisers for people in need. "This is a new thing communities are thinking up. It's a result of the fallout of the economic downturn, that brings these cries for help."

"The first call," Pastor MacLellan said, "is to organizations already doing it. Churches and organizations already have charitable status and are committed to help people, and to help them get better by dealing with the systemic problem. A benevolent society has to be the last stop. It can be flexible enough to meet our needs."

**"The fact that  
you're here  
tonight tells me  
that you care."**

-Deanna Easthope

Elk Point Elementary School principal Lorne Young said that at the school, "we do what we can do and we want to continue. I'm hoping a society will be formed; the school would love to send money."

Pastor Bill Kryzanowski of the Christian Community Church also felt a board or society would be "a good idea."

"It's easy to give money," public health nurse Mona McGinnis. "It's hard to give a physical hand up. It's more than a full time job." She suggested agencies and other assistance providers be listed on posters and the town's website.

"There are people in this town that need food," Isabel Myshaniuk added. "I don't want any child in this town to go without. We need a program to help people to get on the right track and become self-sufficient."

Mayor Parrish Tung cautioned that if a board is established, "we have to be really thoughtful in setting the criteria and mission statement. Can we help these people to bridge a gap and then give them the confidence to go forward? How are we doing this? We need to have someone with the information in order to help."

"The FCSS is a natural place for that," Pastor MacLellan noted.

Easthope had made follow-up calls to the Santas Anonymous clients and said that had been a good idea. "People appreciate not being forgotten."

"Are we ready to establish a board?" Easthope asked. With the crowd in agreement that this was the case, volunteers acknowledged that they were willing to help write up a draft mission statement and criteria.

"I appreciate all of you," Easthope said. "The fact that you're here tonight tells me that you care."



**County of  
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**TAKE NOTICE** that the following Development Permit has been issued in accordance with Land Use Bylaw No. 1486 of the County of St. Paul No. 19.

Permit No. 11-D0011  
Location: N.W. 31-57-6-W4

Bed and Breakfast

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Location: S.W. 5-58-7-W4

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March 15, 2011

Krystle Fedoretz  
Development Authority Officer

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# Municipal Library use increases

Circulation, membership both grow in 2010

By VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

Librarian Daphne Schnurer and library board chair Laverne Wilson reported a successful year with increased membership and circulation at Elk Point Municipal Library's 2011 annual meeting last week.

Schnurer reported that a total of 15,926 library items were borrowed in 2010, up almost 19 per cent from 13,403 items the previous year. Membership as of Dec 31, 2010 was 1,052, a 6.6 per cent increase over 986 a year earlier. The library's website was visited 3,949 times during the year, and public internet use in the library, via such search engines as Internet Explorer, Firefox and Mozilla, added up to 3,945 visits. Around 150 patrons visited the library during an average week, she noted.

Five groups held a total of 24 meetings at the library, while eight school classes visited the facility and four exams were supervised there. Programming included the monthly seniors' teas, twice-monthly knitting and needlework sessions, the Summer Reading Program in July and August and the monthly after-school programming from September to May, a TRAC information session, town clean-up and volunteer appreciation event, book club, gar-

den group, exercise classes, scrapbooking workshops, computer courses, an author reading and a children's entertainer.

Four daily operations volunteers put in approximately 249 volunteer hours, with another 560 hours added by the Friends of the Library and 120 hours by programming volunteers.

Through the fundraising efforts of the devoted Friends group, the library was able to purchase new tables, shelves and extra shelving, Schnurer said. "Our seniors' tea and other programming groups have appreciated this much needed purchase." The Friends also assisted with a boost to collection development, she added, making new books, large print books, magazines and young adult materials available to the community.

Schnurer said the library was fortunate to be able to partner with community groups to offer programs and workshops that were well attended and appreciated by the public, while staff and board representatives attended community events outside the library to generate public awareness "and hopefully, increase membership."

All of the staff and some volunteers have attended varied training webinars over the course of the year, which Schnurer says, "Has been great in keeping our staff current

and able to offer our customers great service."

Going wireless "was an extremely positive move for both the staff for the public," Schnurer said. "We concentrated on educating the public to take advantage of the current and ever-growing e-resources that are available."

Overall, Schnurer said, "It has been a very successful year, increasing our visibility in the community and creating a better understanding of library services."

Board chair Wilson listed input gained through library surveys, library conference, the Northern Lights Library System, town and county council representatives, board members and library patrons as the key to meeting the goal of keeping our services at the highest level.

Along with the new furniture, materials, programming and technology upgrades, Wilson noted that the year's progress included the addition of a much needed storage facility.

He thanked staff, patrons, volunteers, Friends of the Library, the Town of Elk Point, County of St. Paul and the library board for their support and guidance as the board continues its mission "to provide the best possible library services to our community and surrounding districts."

## Riverland planning facing a major challenge

By VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

More than two months before the 2011 Riverland Adventure Challenge tests the mettle of canoeists, runners and cyclists, it is already proving a challenge to the Friends of Fort George and Buckingham House. This year's Challenge is slated for Saturday, May 28.

Sheila Thompson, who has coordinated and fine-tuned the Riverland

Challenge since its beginning, and her husband, Jim Hawkins, who played a major role in its canoeing and cycling components, moved out of the area last summer, and "losing Sheila and Jim is a big thing for the event," Fort George and Buckingham House program coordinator Ross Stromberg said at last week's Friends of the Forts meeting. "It's a great event, but we have to do it right, and safely."

In order to fill the big

gap in the event's organizational lineup, the Friends agreed to hold a special meeting based entirely on the Challenge. Anyone who would like to help in any way with planning and/or carrying out this increasingly popular event is invited to an organizational meeting at Elk Point Municipal Library on Tuesday, March 22 at 7 p.m.

The Friends also have started planning for the July 17 Saskatoon Festival, and are urging crafters interest-

ed in taking part in the Festival's outdoor craft sale to mark it on their calendars.

Stromberg told the Friends that applications are now coming in for the interpreter positions at the site, including two from previous employees. The site will open May 15 and be open until Labour Day, and the Friends are also seeking out interesting items for their gift shop.

## RCMP discuss policing issues with county council

By SHAUNA BURKE  
Review Contributor

A delegation from the RCMP, Supt. Dave Mitchell district commander, Brian Quist, staff sergeant, Brian Sutherland, inspector, for Eastern Alberta District, Bob Batchelor, staff sergeant and for the St. Paul Detachment visited County council at their regular council meeting on March 8 to discuss policing issues.

"As a district, we try to have a visit with council at least once a year ... it's just a chance to have a meet and greet, put a name to a face and just see if there are any issues or pet peeves," said Mitchell.

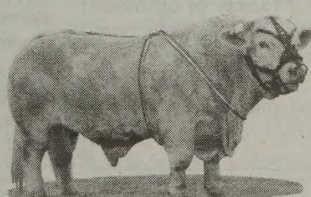
Steve Upham, Reeve for the county of St. Paul welcomed the RCMP and said that it was important that the two organizations had good communication and good synergy.

In response to a question from councillor Glen Ockerman, Mitchell said that the RCMP have a plan to be patrolling the lakes, parks, ATV traffic and snow mobile traffic:

Often county residents contact the councillors to complain but "we are not about to go out arresting people," said Ockerman. He said the complaints heard most often are about people using ATV's where they shouldn't or speeding on lakes.

"In our travels over the last couple of months, this is probably the hot topic in the county," Mitchell said adding that the district RCMP has now purchased a boat and members will be out patrolling the lakes.

(Continued on Page 8)



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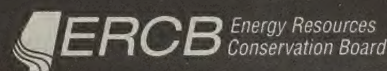
### ELK POINT CAR SHOW

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## EDITORIAL

# Benevolence begins here

Thursday night, we were knee deep in determining if and how to start a benevolent society here in Elk Point. We were barely home from that meeting when a tremendous earthquake shook Japan to its core, causing a tsunami that multiplied the disaster by many times.

Now, what do we do?

Do we help here, there, or everywhere?

Looking way back to the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami and our local efforts to put a fundraiser together to send help to Indonesia, it would seem our time and money would be better spent helping here at home. Some of us cared, but only a handful of people turned out and we raised only a small amount to help the Red Cross effort.

Perhaps the old adage, 'Charity begins at home' should be our guide, and we should first look at our own community and the people here who need assistance.

## WAY BACK WHEN...

## Drastic measures, SPAA title, EDO 'divorce'

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT REVIEW FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 15 IN...

1986

Amoco Canada Petroleum was the first oil company operating in the area to take drastic measures in the wake of falling oil prices, shutting in all their producing wells in the Lindbergh oilfield. Alberta farmers were "carrying the burden of progress," Assistant Deputy Minister of Agriculture Bill Dent told the chamber of commerce at their Agriculture Week dinner meeting, noting, "If I knew what to do about it, I wouldn't be here."

1991

Pioneer Circle building committee chairman Sid Holthe and fundraising committee representative Phyllis Zarowny accepted a \$145,000 Community Facility Enhancement Program grant from MLA John Drobot for their new seniors' drop-in centre. Mayor Bruce Kleeberger welcomed new town administrator Ken Kendall, who came to Elk Point from High Prairie.

1996

Elk Point Crusaders Bomee Lee, Mary Easthope, Erica Nielsen, Jennifer Kadutski, Tori Warawa, Andrea Myshaniuk, Jackie Penz, Tanya Pankiw, Carlen Mutch, Danielle Richard, Michelle Hutton and Krystal Yake won the Junior Girls SPAA Basketball title. Stock consigned by Spring Creek Red Angus and Lazy H Simmentals drew an excellent crowd to Elk Point's first annual bull sale.

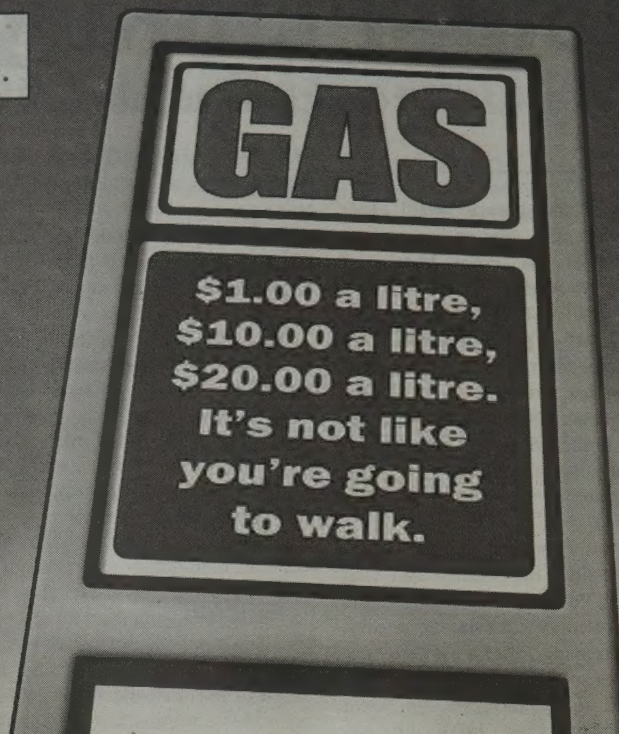
2001

The Elk Point-Dewberry Bantam Colts shared their greatest-ever moment of glory as they won the Bantam Provincial hockey championship in Consort. Elk Point Community Choir and Friends had another huge hit on their hands as their rib-tickling version of the 1960s television hit, 'Get Smart' hit their dinner theatre stage.

2006

Bonnyville got a new mayor in Ernie Isley, who told a special meeting of Elk Point's economic development committee he was "here to negotiate a divorce," and suggested that Thomas Kondla be hired to take over the position. Bonnyville Pontiacs captain Mark Letestu was named the Alberta Junior Hockey League's Most Valuable Player and also won the AJHL's top scorer award with 50 goals and 105 points for the regular season.

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## GUEST COLUMN

# It's all about savings!

Sunday, March 13 was the day we noted that instead of rising at 7 a.m., we were really rising at 6 a.m. What happened? Daylight Savings began in Canada, United States and Mexico. Previously, Canada had observed Daylight Saving Time from the first Sunday in April until the last Sunday in October. However, through legislation passed in 2006, Daylight Saving time now begins three weeks earlier on the second Sunday in March and ends on the first Sunday in November.

Many countries observe DST and many do not. The reason many countries observe DST is in hopes to make better use of the daylight in the evenings, as well as some believe that it could be linked to reducing the amount of road accidents and injuries. The extra hour of daylight in the evening is said to give children more social time with friends and family and can even boost the tourism industry because it increase the amount of outdoor activities. DST is also considered as a means to save energy due to less artificial light needed during the evening hours. However, many studies disagree about the energy savings of DST and while some may show a positive outcome of the energy savings others do not.

The idea of daylight saving was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin during his sojourn as an American delegate in Paris in 1784, in an essay, "An Economical Project". The idea was first advocated seriously by London builder William Willett (1857-1915) in the pamphlet "Waste of Daylight" (1907) that proposed advancing clocks 20 minutes on each of 4 Sundays in April, and retarding them by the same amount on 4 Sundays in September. When challenged about his option, he stated: "Everyone appreciates the long, light evening. Everyone laments their shortage as autumn approaches; and everyone has given utterance to regret that the clear, bright light of an early morning during

spring and summer months is so seldom seen or used."

So there you go. Daylight Savings has been thought of since Benjamin Franklin, and its value and proof of, tossed around until it happens so that our clocks have to be adjusted two times of the year.

Psychologically, do we as a people like the word "savings"? The sales people who do the marketing call it an example of "compensatory decision" making by the consumer. For example the consumer is involved in "trading off" good and bad attributes of a product. A car may have a low price and good gas mileage but slow acceleration. It is the low price, in other words, the sale that convinces the consumer to buy the product.

The "savings" thinking also applies to consumer debt and investment or business debt. Consumer debt refers to buying on credit those things we use or consume in daily living. Examples would include installment buying of clothes, appliances, furniture, etc. Consumer debt is secured by mortgaging our future earnings. This can be very dangerous. If we are laid off work, disabled, or encounter serious emergencies, we have difficulties meeting our obligations. Installment buying is the most expensive way to purchase. To the cost of the goods we buy must be added heavy interest and handling charges.

Speaking of earning, and spending, G. Homer Durham is quoted as stating: "I have discovered that there is no way that you can ever earn more than you can spend. I am convinced that it is not the amount of money an individual earns that brings peace of mind as much as it is having control of his money. Money can be an obedient servant but a harsh taskmaster. Those who structure their standard of living to allow a little surplus, control their circumstances. Those who spend a little more than they earn are controlled by their circumstances. They are in bondage."

It is said that the key to spending less than we earn is simple - it is called discipline. Whether early in life or late, we must all eventually learn to discipline ourselves, our appetites, and our economic desires. Oh, such wise words. But, all those savings we would have missed if we didn't buy, may bother us. Likewise, all those daylight savings hours we don't use may bother us as well. Yes, it is all about savings!



deanna  
EASTHOPE

from the FCSS desk

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.

# Elk Point REVIEW

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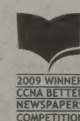


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# County to charge for information

By SHAUNA BURKE  
Review Contributor

Krystal Fedoretz, planning and development officer for the County of St. Paul brought forward a bill to charge people who are requesting data and information that is not covered by FOIP (Freedom of Information Act)

"Anything that is requested by FOIP, we have no choice but to follow FOIP's rules and regulations but what happens is a municipality gets increasing requests for more and more information," said Fedoretz. "The problem is, it takes (county employees) three hours to go find minutes from 1942, hypothetically.... It costs the county as a whole because now people are not doing their jobs when they are doing these requests."

She cited several examples of other municipalities in the area that charge fees for this service. She said they would not charge for documents that are readily available or materials that the county has advertised about, just for special requests.

## Meeting with Alberta Transportation

The County of St. Paul along with other municipalities has been invited to meet with Alberta Transportation at the Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties (AAMD&C) Spring Convention on Tues., Mar. 22 to discuss priorities.

One of the issues that Frank Sloan, councillor, felt should be discussed with the province is the winter maintenance of secondary highways.

"You drive on these secondary's and they push the snow back and you don't know where the shoulder is... this winter everything was white and pretty soon people are hitting the ditch," said Sloan. "A perfect example is that St. Vincent highway. I went on that highway on a day the wind was blowing. You couldn't see the shoulder of the highway because it wasn't graded."

A motion was passed to try to talk about the importance of grading secondary highways in the winter and any other transportation concerns that councillors might have at the AAMD&C meeting but if

not then to send a letter on this issue and other concerns that councillors might have.

County passed all three readings of the bylaw.

## Agreements with town

County council discussed two agreements they have with the Town of St. Paul at their regular meeting on March 8. The fire services agreement and the waste recycling agreement.

The county passed a motion to approve the amended joint fire services agreement. There will be two elected officials from each municipality on the board. An annual budget will be approved by both councils and semi-annual meetings will be scheduled as needed.

The county tabled a motion on the Waste Recycling Centre Joint Operating Agreement to include a more accurate definition of data collection. The agreement states, the town will assume responsibility for 27 per cent of the operating expenses and the county will cover the remaining 13 per cent.

"The question I have here is how are they decid-

ing on what's county and what's not?" said Cliff Martin councillor.

"The people working at the gate are supposed to be surveying," replied Steve Upham Reeve for the County of St. Paul.

There should be a specific process or procedures used to monitor the people who enter the transfer station so that the facts are accurate and verifiable, said Maxine Fodness councillor. She suggested that the procedures should be included in the agreement.

"It may be that our part is higher than 13 per cent but when it comes to money we need to have the facts," said Fodness.

Glen Ockerman, councillor, took the opportunity to re-state his opinion, expressed in previous council meetings that the County of St. Paul needs to come up with its own independent policy on recycling.

## Seniors transportation grant

The county of St. Paul approved a \$1,000 transportation grant for the M.D. of St. Paul Foundation for 2011.

(Continued on Page 8)

COUNTY OF  
ST. PAUL No. 19



## HIGHLIGHTS March 8, 2011 Council Meeting

**Summer Hours for Landfills** – Effective April 1, 2011 the Manned Landfill Sites will revert to summer hours. The Elk Point, St. Edouard, St. Lina, Vincent Lake and Whitney Lake sites will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Ashmont will be open on Tuesday, Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mallaig will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

**Regional Water Line Approved** – The County received approval of Water for Life Funding for an upgrade to the Ashmont Water Treatment Plant and a water line to Lottie Lake. The County will receive a grant of 90.65% of the estimated eligible project costs or up to \$4,169,737 for the project under this program. Council will be meeting with our consultants in March to determine the next steps to get this project underway in 2011.

**Public Hearing** – A public hearing was held to discuss a Bylaw that would authorize the leasing of Lot 28ER, Block 2, Plan 8023220. The proposed lessee spoke in favour of the proposed Bylaw; however he requested that council consider amending it to allow parking of recreation vehicles on the lot. He indicated that if recreation vehicles are not allowed they may not be interested in entering into the proposed lease. Residents in the area spoke against the proposed bylaw stating that if the environmental reserve property is leased it may set a precedent for other ER properties in the County. Some residents were concerned that this bylaw change could affect the usage of the ER property adjacent to their own property.

**Bylaw No. 1567** – Council gave 1st reading to Bylaw No. 1567 which will amend the County's Land Use Bylaw as it relates to Developments Not Requiring a Development Permit (section 2.3). This section will now include waste storage sites operated by the County of St. Paul and the construction of any structure or thing by the County of St. Paul. The bylaw stipulates that notification must be provided to the Development Authority prior to commencement of construction. The reasoning for Administration bringing forth this amendment is to ensure that residents retain the service they are accustomed to. Without this change to the Land Use Bylaw, these waste storage sites may have to be relocated out of the subdivisions with a 300 meter setback from any development.

**Rezoning Bylaws** – Council gave first reading to Bylaws 1569 and 1570 to rezone property as requested by the landowners. Bylaw No. 1569 will rezone PNE 1-58-10-W4 from Urban Expansion District to Country Residential 2 and Bylaw No. 1570 will rezone PSE 17-58-9-W4 from IDP-Urban Reserve to Country Residential. Both landowners wish to subdivide their property into smaller parcels and the current zoning does not allow for the subdivision. The re-zoning that falls in the InterMunicipal Development area with the Town of St. Paul will require an amendment to the InterMunicipal Development Plan which would have to be agreed to by the Town of St. Paul.

**Agreements with the Town of St. Paul** – Council approved the Fire Services Agreement with the Town of St. Paul. The Waste Recycling Joint Operating Agreement has been tabled. Administration will contact the Town of St. Paul administration regarding how monitoring will be done to determine usage of the Recycling Centre and that will be clarified in the agreement.

**Road Construction Easements** – Council approved Road Construction Easements that the Public Works Department has been able to negotiate with the adjacent landowners who will be affected by the road construction projects that were approved by Council for the 2011 Construction season. Public Works reported that they still have some easements for some roads which are still being negotiated that will be brought forward at a future meeting.

**Rates for Records and Data Retrieval** – Administration has received several requests for data which is not available on the County website and falls outside the scope of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Some of the requests have been archival in nature and therefore consume a great deal of staff time. Council passed a bylaw to establish a fee for these types of requests. This bylaw is available on the County website.

**Funding** – \$500 for the St. Paul Pee Wee "A" Canadiens and the Mallaig Midgets for attending Provincial Hockey Tournaments

- \$1,000 transportation grant for M.D. of St. Paul Foundation
- \$500 for 12th Annual Emergency Services Golf Tournament
- \$1,000 for Cystic Fibrosis Walk

**Conferences/Seminars** – Staff members and Council members were approved to attend the following conferences & seminars:

- Jubilee Insurance – Mahdiuk
- Model Process for Subdivision Approval & Private Sewage Training – St. Arnault, Dach, Fodness
- Alberta Water Wastewater Operator Seminar – Weinmeier
- EOEP, Regional Partnerships & Collaboration – Dach
- Alberta Assessors Association Annual Conference – Yacyshyn, Zayac
- Community Planning Association of Alberta – Bergheim, Fedoretz, St. Arnault
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities Conference and Municipal Expo – Dach, Upham

For more information contact  
Sheila Kitz, CAO, County of St. Paul  
at 780-645-3301, ext. 208.

Our website is a useful way to get the information you need.  
Visit: [www.county.stpaul.ab.ca](http://www.county.stpaul.ab.ca)

### UPCOMING AUCTIONS

- **Regular Livestock Sales** held every Tuesday starting at 10 a.m.
- **Horse Sale Thursday March 17, Sale starts with tack at 6 p.m. 5% buyers fee applied to horses and tack.**
- **Murphy Livestock Bull Sale, March 27, 2011 at 1 p.m.**
- **Thursday April 14, 12 noon, All Breeds Bull Sale, Bred Cows and Pairs.**

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## FINE ARTS SHOWCASE

Mozart, Mick Jagger, Beyonce, Van Gogh, Leonardo Da Vinci, and Alex Janvier. Who are these people? Famous Artists, but they began their passion and Fine Arts talents at a young age and most likely in school. Please join us in a celebration of our future Mozarts and Da Vincis at our annual showcase.

**The St. Paul Regional Education Regional Division Junior High Fine Arts Showcase is coming to the RACETTE SCHOOL GYMNASIUM AND FOYER on MONDAY, MARCH 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Visual Arts displays can be viewed starting at 6:30 p.m. and musical performances begin at 7:30 p.m. Junior high students from Ashmont Secondary, F. G. Miller, Glen Avon, Heinsburg, Mallaig, Mymam, Two Hills, Racette and St. Paul Alternate Centre will be participating in the showcase. Parents and guests are welcome to attend and peruse the displays and listen to the musical talents of our students.

We look forward to viewing the visual arts projects and listening to the musical performances of students. A huge thank you goes out to Servus Credit Union for providing recognition gifts to all students and schools involved in the showcase.

**Murphy Livestock  
Charolais & Angus  
BULL SALE**

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Cst. Melissa Bullock (left) and Cst. John Spaans, in red serge, joined Cst. Adam Bullock and Elk Point Elementary School's DARE Program graduates as they completed the 10-week series of sessions.

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# DARE prepares students to face their future

By VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

Grade Six students from Elk Point Elementary School gave glowing testimonials of the DARE (Drug, Alcohol and Risk Education) Program as they and their classmates graduated from the program last Tuesday.

After the grads donned their brand new DARE t-shirts and enjoyed a pizza party and an hour of indoor sports in the F. G. Miller High School gym, RCMP Cst. Adam Bullock congratulated the participants in the "short 10-week" program aimed at reducing the use of drugs, violence and alcohol

by youth and the adults they will soon become. Following a series of eight lessons on subjects ranging from tobacco and marijuana to peer pressure and saying no, each participant was asked to write a one-page DARE report to show that "they have grasped the concepts and learned the statistics," Bullock said.

Eight students were chosen from the group to read their reports to their parents and peers. Excerpts from the reports pointed out the valuable knowledge they have gained from DARE:

"The program reinforced every-

thing my parents have taught me. The most important thing I learned was how to say no."

"I really liked learning about being in charge. I will make very wise decisions when I am 18 because I want to stay alive."

"Double Dare stands for define, assess, respond and evaluate. I don't even want to think about drugs and alcohol now that I know the effects they have. I've been inspired to make healthy choices."

"Just because you're 18, it doesn't mean you have to drink."

(Continued on Page 8)

## Smyl RV Centre

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\*Not exactly  
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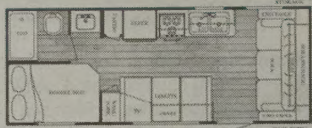
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\*Not exactly as  
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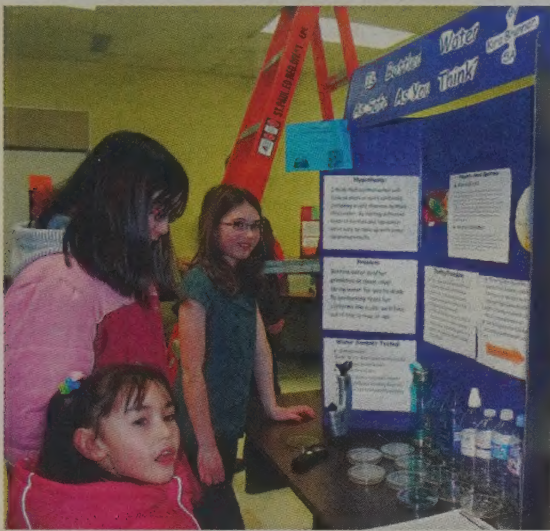
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Grade 6 students Karlee Rinas (left) and Kristy Krawchuk analyzed the sugar content of various popular beverages in their award-winning display.



Kira Brunner discussed the safety aspects of bottled water in her science fair display, which won a Grade 5 Award of Excellence.



Vicki Brooker photos

Quick facts on quicksand were displayed by Vinny Braga in his entry in the Elk Point Elementary School science fair.

## EPE scientists display informative projects

BY VICKI BROOKER  
Review Staff

Twenty-four interesting and informative projects were proudly displayed to parents, siblings and the community by students in grades three to six at Elk Point Elementary School's annual Science Fair last Tuesday, with nine projects receiving awards of excellence.

Grade 3 awards of excellence went to Vinny Braga with his display on 'Quicksand,' Hayden Ludlage with 'How a Slap Shot Works,' and Rhianna Bjorkman with 'Static Electricity.' Colton VanMaarion, Jesse Cameron, Chyanne Fisher, Dylan Ference and Hank Rogal, Anmol Sidhu, Kaycee Wruth, Paul Norman, Katelyn Boratynec and Kailey Wirsta also presented a wealth of knowl-

edge with their projects.

Grade 4 awards of excellence went to Abby Baker, showing 'What is Really Inside an Egg' and Tessa Pindroch, who handed out tasty samples as she demonstrated 'How is Ice Cream Made?' Corbin Ockerman and Parker Allen, Cassandra Smith and Alyssa Duncan also displayed Grade 4 projects.

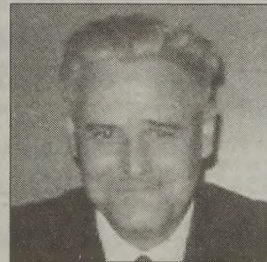
Morgan Baker, with 'Do You Know Your Horse?' and Kira Brunner, with 'Is Bottled Water as Safe as You Think?' received the Grade 5 awards of excel-

lence, with Darby Swedgan and Kaitlin Poiras also exhibiting in this category.

In Grade 6, awards of excellence went to Kristy Krawchuk and Karlee Rinas with 'How Much Sugar is Too Much?' and Ethan Tremblay and Bowen Krider with 'Potato Energy.' Savannah Lawrence and Moira McFarlane, Dylan Odgaard and Dmitri Wozniak and Cheyenne Wruth provided the other Grade 6 displays.

### OBITUARY

#### BJORNSTAD, Elmer



On March 10, 2011, Mr. Elmer Bjornstad of Elk Point passed away on his 84th birthday.

He is survived by his loving wife, Lenore, of 61 years; 3 sons & 3 daughters, Marvin (Heather), Mavis (Gerald) Smereka & Kevin (Karen) all of Elk Point, Gary (Tracey) of Sherwood Park, Karen (Rob) Norman of Evansburg & Stacey Bjornstad-Hauk of Edmonton; son-in-law, Art Romanchuk of Myrnam; 22 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; sister, Hilda Watson of Lamont; brother, Ernie (Eve) of Kelowna; brother-in-law, Gerald (Kathy) Ford of Sherwood Park; numerous nieces & nephews. He was predeceased by his daughter, Lorna Romanchuk; & brother, Carl (Betty).

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, March 19 at 1:30 p.m. at Elks Hall, Elk Point, with Reverend Sam Donaldson officiating. In lieu of flowers & other tributes, donations may be made to Elk Point Elks Scholarship Fund or Alzheimers Society c/o Box 1780, St. Paul, AB T0A 3A0.

Grace Gardens Funeral Chapel, Box 1780, St. Paul, AB. Phone 780-645-2677.

### CHURCH SERVICES

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Pastor Jim MacLellan  
Pastor Jason Goulet  
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Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.  
Call 724-4194 for more information  
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[www.elkpointbaptistchurch.org](http://www.elkpointbaptistchurch.org)

**St. Vladmirs' Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Elk Point**  
For service times,  
call 645-5156, St. Paul.

**United Church of Canada**  
4822 - 50 Ave., Elk Point  
724-3616  
Services - Sunday 10 a.m.  
"Come and be Welcomed -  
Come and Be Nurtured"

**Christian Community Church of Elk Point**  
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Our Aim:  
"To Know, Apply and Share the  
Power of Christ"  
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Sunday School - 10 a.m.  
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**St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church**  
Father Ambrose  
Sunday Mass  
11:30 a.m.

**Bethel Lutheran Church of Lea Park**  
Weekly Services, 10:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion 2nd and 3rd  
Sundays

**Bible Fellowship Church Clandonald**  
Services held every  
Sunday at 11 a.m.

### CONGRATULATIONS

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### COMING EVENT

## SPRING SUPPER

**Wednesday, March 23, 2011**

5:00 to 6:30 pm

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Sponsored by the

**CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Adults - \$12; 6-12 yrs. - \$6; 5 & Under - Free



## RCMP, county discuss policing issues

(Continued from Page 3)

One of the challenges is that when the RCMP go out to patrol, people quiet down and behave themselves until after they leave, but they are planning continue to patrol the county, said Batchelor. He said that it's important for county councillors and residents to follow up and call them when they have a concern and provide as much information as they can.

"I want to hear about it!" stated Batchelor.

Mitchell clarified that they may not be able to send an officer out on a quad at 3 a.m. but that they will collect the

information and if they see a pattern emerging, then they can send a patrol to the area.

Later in the meeting Quist said that he personally would like to see legislation requiring helmets on quads because he is saddened by the statistics he reads each year about the number of injuries and deaths that might have been prevented if people wore helmets.

"What happens if a community suspects drug activity with in a rural community?" asked councillor Maxine Fodness.

Once again councillors were urged to call or have the concern rate payers report the information to the RCMP.

Often it requires and accumulation of information over a period of time to get enough evidence to warrant police action, explained Mitchell.

"Your rate payer might phone us and say we see a lot of traffic at this house, on Friday nights or on pay weekends ... and there is rumors that they are selling drugs," said Mitchell. "We have to go to a judge to get a search warrant. Well one person telling us there is a lot of traffic, is not going to be enough, but if we get 5 or 6 people then the judges will look at it and say there is reasonable grounds to let the RCMP go in there."

## DARE Program

(Continued from Page 6)

"DARE helps you realize these things can ruin your life and hurt your body. The most important thing is to make the right decisions."

"Thankfully, I have learned these skills, to make good decisions."

"I learned about all the bad things, and not to smoke, do marijuana or drink, despite the peer pressure."

"I learned to refuse, to stay out of situations, get out of situations and say no, no, no like a broken record."

The DARE Program was started in 1983 by a group of American police officers and is now widely used by police to educate students and teach them to resist harmful behaviour, Bullock said. "This is my first posting, and this is my first DARE graduating class," he noted.

Grade 6 teachers Ms Piquette and Emma Holota presented each DARE grad with a certificate as Cst. Bullock and Mayor Parrish Tung offered congratulations. Each student then was photographed with Cst. Melissa Bullock and Cst. John Spaans, who wore their traditional red serge for the occasion.

## County to charge for information

(Continued from Page 5)

### Funding for provincial hockey championships

County passed a motion to donate \$500 each to the St. Paul Pee Wee A Canadiens to attend the provincial hockey championship tournament in Drumheller from Mar. 24 to 27 and the Mallaig Midgets to attend the provincial hockey tournament in Caroline from Mar. 24 to 27.

### 4H Beef on a Bun

Council passed a motion to support the St. Paul and District 4H by providing beef on a bun at the district show and sale on June 6.

### Pyrogy Bonspiel

The Village of Glendon is holding its 10th annual Pyrogy Bonspiel on Sat, Mar. 19.

"I have attended this for the last couple of years and it's a lot of fun and anyone can go even if they can't curl," said Ockerman. "I would like to make the motion (to sponsor two teams at a cost of \$60 per team) and would administration like to try to put a team in?"

Leo DeMoissac, public works superintendent agreed to try to put a team together. The motion passed.

### Emergency Services golf tournament

The 12th Annual Emergency Services Golf Tournament will be held on June 2, 2011 in Elk Point and in the past the count has sponsored 1 team of 5 at \$80 per golfer and made a cash donation of \$500 to become a silver sponsor, said Sheila Kitz, CAO for the County of St. Paul.

County passed a motion to do the same again this year.

### Lease oversight

An oversight in renewing a lease on a small strip of beachfront property located in the Bayview Beach subdivision at Upper Mann Lake has resulted in a difficult dilemma for the County of St. Paul council.

County had renewed the lease on the land annually for over 30 years, but because the property was designated it as an Environmental Reserve (ER), it should have been leased by bylaw for a period of only three years to comply with a County bylaw.

To amend the oversight, county drafted bylaw 1564 to allow the family to continue to lease the property.

During the February meeting, council passed first reading. The bylaw changes the use of the land from public to private.

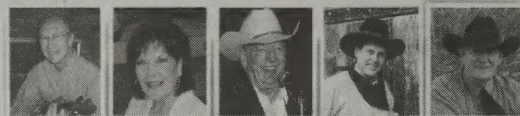
Several county residents showed up to the public hearing on the proposed bylaw to debate the issue on March 8.

County decided to postpone the second reading of the bylaw to consider if changes are needed.

Lakeland Friends of STARS and the Glendon Agricultural Society presents:

## CANADIAN COUNTRY MUSIC LEGENDS IN CONCERT

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at Glendon RCMP Century Hall**

**Time: 7:00pm - 12:30am  
(7:00pm - 10:00pm show with dance to follow)**

**Tickets: \$25 (Licenced event)  
(Food will be available)**

**Tickets available at:**

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# Season winds up with shootouts

BY TIM POULIN AND VICKI BROOKER  
Review Sports

This was the last game of an excellent season for the Micro Avalanche. The first 30-minute period started out with these two teams holding their own with some great defense from Sam 'Spiderman' Rogal and Chayse 'Cyclone' Pankiw. Joseph Cardinal and Brady

Hymanyk held the net empty until Luke 'Skyjacker' Poulin opened the scoring 10 minutes into the game with a pair assisted by 'Spring Park Sniper' Kaiden Allen. Cash Capjack forced one in a goal line scrum, and 'St. Nic' Penner teamed up with Jaden 'Grizzly' VanMaarion who found the back of the net for three. 'King Kong'

Konnor Poitras added one, having the way cleared by Vanden Moroziuk. The Bonnyville squad dominated the second half and edged the Avs by a 10 to 7 margin at the last bell.

The Novice No. 1 team played right after the Micro squad, against Bonnyville as well. The stands remained packed to see this nail-biter of a match with 'Super B' VanMaarion standing on his head between the pipes. Hayden 'Hot Wheels' Ludlage scored the only regulation time goal for the Novice Avs and 60 minutes ended in a one-all tie. They went to a shoot out with 'Super B' VanMaarion closing the door and Parker Allen sliding one by the B-Ville net minder to win the last game of the season. This was one of the most entertaining games of the year for these boys. Hockey fans in Elk Point are in for some top-notch action in the years to come if this season was any indication.

The Novice No. 2 game also came down to a shootout against Dewberry. Hank Rogal, Conner Lychak and Erin Duffee each scored two goals and Sam Henderson with one and Wolke Cueva with the first goal of the game, Conner assisting on three goals and Charlie Rogal on one to make it eight-all after regulation time. In the shootout, Hank scored his hat trick goal, Sam scored

his second of the day and James Kozicki scored his second goal of the year to put the Avs on top in this exciting match-up. This is still not the end of hockey for Novice No. 2, who are excited to be heading to Lashburn on Saturday for one last tournament.

The Atom Avalanche completely buried a Bonnyville team with a 16-3 win, a good way to end the season and a lot of fun for everyone with some of the defense players taking their turns on the front lines. The game sheet was not available, but after this game, every player on the team is reported to have scored at least one goal this

year.

Elk Point's minor hockey teams, their coaches and volunteers will celebrate a successful season at their windup banquet tonight at the Seniors' Recreation Centre at 5 p.m. Watch next week's issue for coverage of this event, as the *Elk Point Review* salutes the winter's young stars on ice.

This Saturday, hockey gives way to another crowd-pleaser on ice, as the Elk Point Skating Club shows off their skills at the annual skating carnival at 1:30 p.m. Make sure to come down and enjoy the show.

Recreational hockey will be in the spotlight for the final weekend of the month,

with this year's 'last hurrah' saluting the memory of a devoted hockey dad, coach and former Elk Point Senior Elks, St. Paul Junior B Canadiens and Elk Point Minor Hockey player at the Jim Vinge Memorial Tournament.

This event will include a supper, silent and live auctions, a social and dance. Tickets for the supper and dance are available from Scott Dallaire at the arena, from Wanda Cochrane at Wanda Lynn's and from Carla Ganske at ATB Financial. Proceeds from the tournament will go to A. G. Ross Arena, Elk Point Minor Hockey and to Jim Vinge's family.



Elizabeth Orr performs a Ukrainian-inspired solo called Hutzul at the St. Paul skating carnival.

Janice Huser photo



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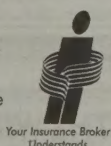
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## 130. Coming Events

**BRING YOUR FUTURE** into focus by participating in program information sessions at Lakeland College, Lloydminster Campus Sessions: March 31 - Business, and University Transfer. Vermilion Campus Sessions: March 18 - Ag-Cling (Agricultural Sciences); March 25 - Office Administration; April 1 - Western Ranch and Cow Horse; April 4 - Child and Youth Care, Early Learning and Child Care, and Educational Assistant. Camrose Sessions: April 18 - Emergency Medical Services. Details at [www.lakelandcollege.ca/infosessions](http://www.lakelandcollege.ca/infosessions). To RSVP phone 1-800-661-6490.

**SHEN YUN PERFORMING ARTS** returns with a dazzling and exhilarating new theatrical spectacle for 2011. Mar. 24 - 25, 7:30 p.m.; Mar. 26, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Northern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium, and Mar. 27 - 29, 7 p.m. at the Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets at Ticketmaster: 1-855-955-5000 or [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca).

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## 500. Tenders

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Notice is hereby given to all interested parties wishing to place a bid to cater the meals for the NLLS Conference held in Elk Point at the Allied Arts Centre. **Meals consist of two breakfasts, 2 lunches, 1 dinner and 1 evening social.**

The kitchen facilities at the Allied Arts Centre are available at \$150.00 per day.

A sample menu and prices must be submitted by **March 31, 2011.**

Attention: Brigitte Sakaluk, Assistant Director  
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# Education budget adds to school board's money woes

By SHAUNA BURKE  
Review Contributor

At first glance the provincial budget appeared to have increased funding to education. Upon closer examination, what was given in one hand was taken away with the other, according to secretary-treasurer Jean Champagne during his presentation at St. Paul Education Regional Division (SPERD) school board meeting on Wednesday.

"We are getting approximately \$800,000 to offset the 4.4 per cent increase as part of the teacher settlement," said Champagne. "Because of some of the other grant changes that were also announced, we are losing (approximately) \$800,000 in revenue, so really at the end of the day we are not getting any extra money."

The division will still have to cover the additional costs associated with the teacher wage increase, worth about \$1 million, as well as wage increases to support staff and other increases resulting in a projected net loss of about \$1.5 million, explained Champagne in an interview after the board meeting.

"The bottom line ... is that it's impossible to provide the same level of service that we presently are," said Glen Brodziak, superintendent of schools for SPERD.

The division is still collecting information from schools on funding requests and projected enrollments and once they have all that information they will better understand how the projected funding

loss will impact student program, he said.

Although SPERD has approximately \$3 million in reserve, Champagne explained to the board it is not prudent to drain the reserves down to nothing because it is important to have some money in the bank just for cash flow purposes. Some of that money held in reserve belongs to the individual schools for their school-based budgets, he said.

The East Central Francophone Education school division has also been impacted by the provincial budget, said Marc Dumont, superintendent. They are projecting a net loss of approximately \$250,000.

"Although the number may seem smaller, in terms of proportion it is very similar because we are a smaller board than SPERD," explained Dumont, adding that they only have about 60 teachers in the division.

Both boards clarified that they have not completed negotiations with support staff and have not yet had a chance to sit down and determine exactly how it will impact student learning.

"In the past we have always been able to minimize if not completely eliminate any negative impact on students. However, given that year after year there are these shortfalls ... we are not sure that we will be able to maintain zero impact on students much longer," said Dumont.

"Really we are at the point now that there is no way we can make decisions that will have zero impact on students."

## Strong prices have area cow-calf producers cautiously optimistic

With a new calving season underway and Alberta calf prices at near-record highs, there's a renewed sense of optimism building among cattle producers in St. Paul County and across the province. But it's cautious optimism, says an Alberta beef industry analyst who warns there is plenty of uncertainty over where prices may end up between now and the fall when most calves are weaned and sold as feeder cattle.

"I see lots of opportunity for continued strength in prices, and lots of risks," says Brian Perillat, Senior Analyst with Canfax, a division of the Canadian Cattlemen's Association that tracks cattle industry prices and trends in Alberta and across North America. He points out fall calf prices have climbed more than 30 per cent over the last year and futures prices on feeder cattle remain bullish. "Since February, we've been watching feeder cattle prices bounce around the record levels set in 2001 before BSE hit. It's exciting to see prices finally rising when they've been down in the doldrums for so long."

### Beef demand is "soft"

The strong prices are being driven by a shrinking cow herd and growing demand for beef, which was hammered hard by the recession – both in Canada and internationally, explains Perillat. Alberta's cow herd has shrunk 20 per cent since its peak in 2005 due to several years of poor prices and high feed costs. The U.S. herd is at 50-year lows. Tightening supplies and improved demand have resulted in a significant price rally for beef, says Perillat. "A lot of it is being spurred on by a low U.S. dollar which is fuelling U.S. exports and driving up beef prices." However, he cautions beef demand is still relatively "soft" because the U.S. and world economies are far from stable and could easily stumble backwards, causing demand and Alberta cattle prices to weaken again.

Perillat adds the strong dollar and high feed costs are also key risk factors that could trigger a sudden drop in calf prices.

"With last year's carry-over corn stocks at almost record lows, any issue such as drought or frost that impacts the 2011 corn crop could cause a huge spike in feed costs – taking all the bloom off the calf market."

### Floor price protection

With so many unknowns, Perillat says Alberta's new Cattle Price Insurance Program for calves, launched this month, could prove to be a valuable tool for local cow-calf producers. "There are definitely guys who have been waiting for this because it lets them lock in a floor price on their calves for this fall, helping protect them from the negative risk we're seeing." It also leaves their upside wide open because it doesn't limit them from selling those calves at the highest price if the market climbs further, says Perillat. He notes CPIP-Calf is the third price insurance program unveiled for Alberta cattle producers by Agriculture Financial Services Corporation (AFSC), which administers CPIP on behalf of the provincial government.

Two other CPIP programs launched previously include CPIP-Fed for feedlot operators who feed cattle to slaughter weight, and CPIP-Feeder for producers who feed calves to about 850 pounds before they move to a feedlot to be finished. The new CPIP-Calf program is designed for cow-calf producers who sell weaned calves weighing 550-to-650 pounds.

### "A real need"

"We've had strong interest in the Fed and Feeder programs, and producers tell us there's a real need for this third program because most cow-calf producers are 'price takers' who sell their calves at auction marts in the fall, leaving them at the mercy of prices being offered on any given day," says Jennifer Wood, Coordinator of CPIP programs for AFSC.

"The average cow-calf producer has very few options when it comes to managing price risk," adds Wood, explaining most don't have the time or expertise to hedge their price risk using futures and

options markets. "With CPIP, they don't have to. It's a market-driven program that internalizes those complexities so what producers see is very simple and straight forward. They're guaranteed an Alberta floor price for the calves they plan to sell in the fall. If prices fall below that point, they're protected."

### Don't have to sell to make a claim

Wood says an important feature of CPIP-Calf is that producers aren't obligated to sell their cattle to make a claim. "If they're eligible for a claim, that means prices are lower than forecasted. If the market is telling you to hold on to your calves and maybe sell them later once prices improve, we wouldn't want to influence that decision."

The floor price producers insure against with CPIP-Calf is based on the forecasted Alberta price of a 550-to-650-pound calf in the fall, explains Wood. "It's based on very consistent methodology that factors in the critical components that impact calf prices, such as the futures price for feeder cattle, the currency exchange risk, the price of barley, and the basis – the difference between U.S. and Canadian calf prices."

### Market driven

CPIP-Calf is available for purchase from February to May each year. Premiums are market-driven and fluctuate daily based on market volatility, says Wood. Policies expire during the fall calf run from September to December. Producers choose policy lengths of 16-to-36 weeks depending on when they plan to sell their calves. During the last four weeks of the policy, if the average price of an Alberta steer weighing 550-to-650 pounds falls below their insured price, they can submit a claim, says Wood. "We calculate that provincial average price for Alberta steers every week by collecting sales data from 22 auction marts across the province. If you're selling calves at the auction mart in Vermilion, for example, the price you receive is reflected in that average steer price," she says.

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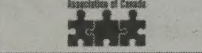


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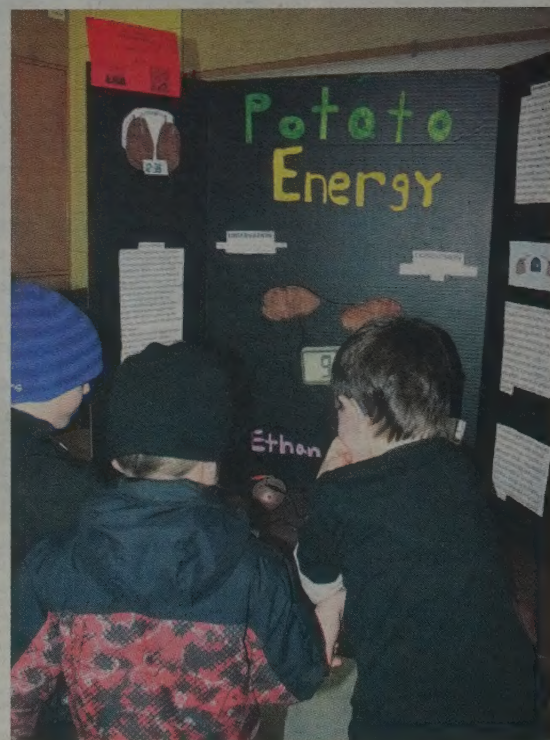
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Morgan Baker (far right) earned an award of excellence with her knowledge of horses in her Elk Point Elementary School science fair display.



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